

BILL NO. BL2018-1186 (VERCHER, SYRACUSE, & OTHERS) – This ordinance establishes the property tax relief program for low-income elderly residents of the Metropolitan Government for FY19. This is essentially an extension of an existing tax relief program that has been in existence for many years.

Tennessee Code Annotated § 5-9-112 authorizes county legislative bodies to appropriate funds for the purpose of providing assistance to low-income elderly residents in the county on an annual basis, based on the particular needs of eligible recipients. The county legislative body is also authorized to develop guidelines for eligibility. Additionally, Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-5-702 provides that the general funds of the state shall be paid to certain low-income taxpayers sixty-five (65) years of age or older necessary to pay or reimburse such taxpayers for all or part of their local property taxes. For many years, Metro has provided a double match of the state funds for the program. \$3,900,000 has been included in the proposed FY19 operating budget in the Property Tax Relief Program Account.

This ordinance would direct the Metropolitan Trustee to disburse funds to eligible taxpayers and further authorizes the Trustee to establish rules and procedures for implementation of the program. All persons who qualify for the state property tax relief program and whose income does not exceed \$29,270 annually will qualify for this program. Because this budgetary appropriation is non-recurring, this program would expire on June 30, 2019.

Fiscal Note: The FY19 operating budget includes \$3,900,000 for the property tax relief program for the elderly, which is the same as the appropriation for FY18.